

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-05 FEA-01 STR-01

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P R 192317Z MAR 75

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TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, ETRD, MX, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO MEXICO

REF: MEXICO 2423

1. SUMMARY: FIRST DAYS STATE VISIT OF PRESIDENT PEREZ OF VENEZUELA TO MEXICO ARE FOLLOWING EXPECTED PATTERN OF ANNOUNCED SUPPORT FOR SELA, CERDS, AND PRINCIPLES OF OPEC; TOGETHER WITH CRITICISM OF TRA AND CALLS BY PRESIDENTS FOR LA ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE WITHIN FRAMEWORK NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. PRESIDENTS ARE MAKING WARMEST POSSIBLE PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF FRIENDSHIP, AND VISIT RECEIVING IMMENSE PRESS COVERAGE, INCLUDING MARCH 17 ARRIVAL AND MARCH 18 TRIP TO OIL-PRODUCING AREAS TO CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY GOM EXPR-

OPRIATION OIL INDUSTRY. ALMOST LOST IN THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE OF CONFRONTATION WITH DEVELOPED WORLD WAS AT LEAST ONE CONCILIATORY GESTURE BY PRES.

PEREZ -- A FAVORABLE REFERENCE TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PROPOSAL

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FOR ESTABLISHMENT

HEMISPHERE AGRICULTURAL CONSULTATIVE GROUP. END SUMMARY.

2. FIRST TWO DAYS VISIT OF PRES. CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ OF VENEZUELA TO MEXICO ARE FOLLOWING PATTERN WE HAD EXPECTED (MEXICO 2241), WITH BOTH PRESIDENTS PEREZ AND ECHEVERRIA ISSUING STRONG STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR SISTEMA ECONOMICA LATINOAMERICANA (SELA) AND CALLING FOR ITS EARLY CREATION. AT ONE POINT, PRES. PEREZ MENTIONED SELA AS ONE OF FACTORS WHICH "UNITE" LATIN AMERICANS, AND PRES. ECHEVERRIA NOTED THAT IT ENJOYED "CONSIDERABLE" SUPPORT IN HEMISPHERE. (COMMENT: STATEMENTS THUS FAR ON SELA, HOWEVER, SEEM TO FALL SHORT OF "FORMAL INVITATION" FOR ALL LA COUNTRIES TO JOIN ORGANIZATION WHICH SECRETARY OF NATIONAL PATRIMONY FRANCISCO JAVIER ALEDO PREDICTED WOULD COME OUT OF PRES. PEREZ' VISIT (REFTEL). PRES. ECHEVERRIA'S CLAIM OF CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FOR SELA AMONG LAS IS ALSO MORE MODEST AND REALISTIC THAN ROSY PRONOUNCEMENTS OF ALEJO ON HIS RETURN FROM RECENT LA TOUR (MEXICO 2176).HOWEVER, VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT'S STATE VISIT STILL HAS SEVERAL DAYS TO RUN, AND IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT FURTHER DRUM-BEATING FOR SELA MAY BE PLANNED FOR WEEK'S END, AND INDICATION THAT THIS MAY BE THE CASE WAS FREQUENT MENTION OF SELA BY FONMIN RABASA AS REPORTED MEXICO 2423).

3. PRES. PEREZ' EXPECTED CRITICISM OF U.S. TRADE REFORM ACT (TRA) TOOK LINE THAT TRA IS WEAPON PREVENTING PRODUCER COUNTRIES FROM MAKING LEGITIMATE DEFENSE OF WORLD MARKET PRICES OF THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES AND COMMODITIES. HE CREDITED TRA PASSAGE WITH "ACCOMPLISHING" AN UNPRECEDENTED SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY AMONG LATIN AMERICANS, AND SUGGESTED THAT SUCCESS OF ORGANIZING SELA WOULD BE IN PART DUE TO DANGERS POSED TO LA BY TRA.

4. MENEZUELAN PRES. HAS BEEN FULSOME IN HIS PRAISE OF CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES BKCERDS), WHICH HE NOTES HAD BEEN APPROVED BY OVERWHELMING MAJORITY AT LAST UNGA SESSION. FULL CREDIT MUST BE GIVEN, HE HAS SAID, TO HIS HOST PRES. ECHEVERRIA, WHO MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATION AND APPROVAL OF THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VITAL DOCUMENT.

5. AT CEREMONIES MARCH 18 COMMEMORATING 37TH ANNIVERSARY OF GOM'S EXPROPRIATION OF OIL INDUSTRY, HELD IN REFORMA, CHIAPAS, ALL PRESENT STOOD (IN INCREDIBLE HEAT) FOR 30-MINUTE PEREZ SPEECH, DURING WHICH VENEZUELAN PRES. ENERGETICALLY CALLED FOR "ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE" OF LA AND URGED "THIRD WORLD" NATIONS TO TURN AWAY FROM SUPPLYING ONLY RAW

MATERIALS, IN FAVOR OF REFINED AND FINISHED PRODUCTS.
PRES. PEREZ ALSO HAD HIGH PRAISE FOR GOM ACHIEVEMENTS IN
PETROLEUM, AND REITERATED JOINT MEXICAN-VENEZUELAN DESIRES
FOR MORE ECONOMICALLY-UNITED LATIN AMERICA. (COMMENT:
THOUGH ONE REMARK OF PRES. PEREZ THAT "PETROLEUM SHOULD
NOT BE USED TO CREATE CONFRONTATIONS, BUT TO SEEK THE
SOLIDARITY OF ALL PEOPLES" HAS CONCILIATORY RING, EMB
MINERALS/PETROLEUM OFFICER WHO ATTENDED MARCH 18
CEREMONIES REPORTS THAT OVERALL ATMOSPHERE WAS
CONFRONTATIONAL IN NATURE. INFORMATION DEVELOPED ON GOM OIL
INDUSTRY BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL.)

6. IN CONTRAST TO STATEMENTS REPORTED PARAS 2-5 ABOVE,
WAS AT LEAST ONE CONCILIATORY GESTURE TOWARD US -- A
FAVORABLE REFERENCE BY PRES. PEREZ ON EVENING MARCH 17
TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT
HEMISPHERE AGRICULTURAL CONSULTATIVE GROUP. PRES. PEREZ
SAID QUOTE IN SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER'S MARCH 1 SPEECH
IN HOUSTON, DEALING WITH LATIN AMERICA, THE SECRETARY
PROPOSED THE CREATION OF A CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON AGRICULTURAL
PROBLEMS, AND A BROAD PROGRAM OF RESEARCH WHICH WOULD
INCLUDE A TECHNICAL INFORMATION CENTER FOR THE
EXCHANGE OF AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL TRAINING
OF AGRICULTURAL PROFESSIONALS... THIS PROPOSAL OF THE
UNITED STATES, WHICH I CONSIDER TO BE IMPORTANT, SHOULD
BE IMPLEMENTED RAPIDLY IN THIS REGION... UNQUOTE. THESE
FAVORABLE REMARKS, HEARD BY AMBASSADOR (WHO ATTENDED
DINNER GIVEN IN HONOR PRES. PEREZ BY PRES. ECHEVERRIA),
WERE GIVEN VERY LITTLE PRESS PLAY -- ONLY A SINGLE MID-
COLUMN REFERENCE HIDDEN IN LONG REPORT ON DINNER PARTY.
(COMMENT: IT SEEMS SIGNIFICANT TO US THAT VENEZUELAN PRES.
DID GO OUT OF HIS WAY ON AT LEAST THIS OCCASION TO COUNTER-
BALANCE THE SOMETIMES CONFRONTATIONAL TONE HEARD IN OTHER
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